

Application Number: 10/530528  
Response to Office Action Dated 02/08/2007

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REMARKS

Applicants believe that the wrong claim set was examined. The correct claim set to be examined was presented in the PCT Article 34 Amendment posted 24 August 2004 and an English translation was included with the national stage request mailed on 06 April 2005. Applicants herein present the correct claim set and further amend claim 1 editorially and amend claim 12 to be dependent upon claim 1. Claims 1, 4-21, 23-26 are pending.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1, 4, 8-15 and 18-21 as being anticipated by Matsuzawa '285. The rejection states Matsuzawa '285 discloses a first lens of the second lens group having a positive refractive power. Applicants disagree. Matsuzawa '285 specifically states in column 3 lines 20-22 "the front lens ( $L_{2F}$ ) with the negative refracting power disposed as closest to the first object in the second lens group ( $G_2$ ) ...," *see also*, column 2 lines 28-30, column 8 lines 55-60, and column 12 lines 31-33. Thus, Matsuzawa '285 does not teach or suggest the arrangement of the refractive power of lenses of the second lens group as being positive, negative, negative ... as seen from the side having the longer conjugate distance, as required by claim 1, i.e., Applicants claim that the first lens of the second group has a positive refractive power, unlike Matsuzawa '285.

Applicants assert, moreover, that the claims are not obvious in view of Matsuzawa '285. One of ordinary skill in the art would not modify Matsuzawa '285 so that the first lens of the second lens group has a positive refractive power. The lens system of Matsuzawa '285 is used to create an image of a mask pattern onto a photosensitive substrate; this implies a relatively fixed magnification. Matsuzawa '285, moreover, specifically states that the second lens group contributes mainly to a correction of the Petzval sum to make the image plane flat and to help guarantee a back focus surface, column 3 lines 5-12; in other words, the lens groups of Matsuzawa '285 are relatively fixed along the optical axis and the second lens group is intended to help guarantee a flat focus at a fixed surface.

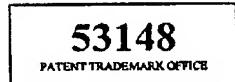
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Claim 1 is directed to a zoom lens. The positive refractive power of the first lens of the second group within Applicants lens system corrects the negative distortion of the entire lens system at any magnification and reduces the distortion at the wide angle end. Thus, in the second lens group, the first lens with the negative refractive power as taught by Matsuzawa '285 serves a different function from that of the first lens having a positive refractive power in claim 1. Applicants also request that claims 4-21 be allowed over Matsuzawa '285 at least by their dependence upon claim 1. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection as to claims 4-21.

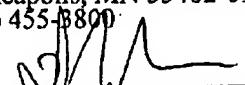
Applicants further traverse the rejection of claims 23-26 as being obvious over Matsuzawa '285 in view of Lewis '708. Lewis '708 does not correct the shortcomings of Matsuzawa '285 noted above for claim 1 upon which claims 23-26 are dependent. Applicants again are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to claims 23-26.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 5, 6, 7, 16 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable. Applicants assert that the rejected base claim 1 is now allowable over Matsuzawa '285, thus not only should claims 5, 6, 7, 16 and 17 but all pending claims be allowed. The Examiner is invited to resolve any remaining issues in a telephone conversation with the primary Attorney listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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